



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Recreation Commission Minutes 04/08/2008

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Nancy Campbell, Jen Rothenberg and Jim Robillard. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included Mr. Paul Romeo, Jeanne Leary, Justine Bloche, Jim Ballin, Jennifer Goodwin, Kellie Connelly, Chuck Carney, Quimars Hardatian, Christine Connolly and Joe Carabello.

Bishop School Playground Committee Phase II

Ms. Bloche reviewed BIP's proposal for phase II. Ms. Bloche stated that the goal of BIP was to complete the planning for a June 7th community build. Ms. Bloche broke the project up into several areas including the community board, brick donations and community board base, landscaping and plantings, and additional site furnishings.

Ms. Bloch reviewed the Community Board location options stating that one of the options was not preferable because of the proximity to the dumpster. The Commission discussed the placement of the Community Board. Ms. Bloch did state that there was discussions about a memorial tree in the area. Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer will investigate the issue. The Commission discussed the proximity to the basketball court and asked that it be moved father back if possible.

Ms. Bloch reviewed the brick fundraiser and patio plan. Ms. Bloch apologized for moving forward with the fundraiser prior to receiving the Commission's approval. Mr. Connelly stated that the brick draft language was the meeting packets and seemed appropriate. The Commission agreed that the language was appropriate. Ms. Bloch stated that there would be 600 total brick with 80 of them engraved. Ms. Bloch reviewed the design plan with the Commission. Ms. Mayer expressed concern over the handicap access issue of brick and asked Mr. Connelly to check with Mr. Jones of the Disability Commission.

Ms. Bloch discussed the placement of thank you plaques on the community board. Ms. Bloch showed the Commission samples of the plaques. Mr. Connelly stated reviewed the by-law with regards to advertisement on open space property. The Commission felt that what was being presented was appropriate but that there was no room for expansion.

Ms. Bloch reviewed the desire to purchase additional site furnishings including two picnic tables, two sitting benches and two backless benches. Ms. Bloch stated that funds may not allow all of the furnishings to be purchased at this time. Ms. Mayer asked that the furnishings be numbered on the plan in priority order of installation.

Ms. Bloch reviewed the plan to resurface and paint the world map on the hot top area. The Commission inquired on the type of paint to be used. Ms. Bloch will investigate the type of paint and report back to the Commission.

Ms. Connelly reviewed the landscape plan with the Commission, Ms. Mayer asked if there were any fruiting trees in the plan. Ms. Connelly explained the type of trees and plantings. Ms. Connelly stated that most of the plantings were native and were chosen for their ability to survive.

Ms. Rothenberg asked if there was a commitment to maintain the plantings especially in the early growing period. Mr. Connelly stated that the Town would do their best but could not guarantee the appropriate care.

Mr. Haijian entered the meeting and reviewed the Community Board design further with the Commission.

Mr. Connelly reviewed the remaining punch list items:

1. Discussion with the Disability Commission with regard to the brick patio.
2. Ms. Bloch will look into moving the kiosk further away from the basketball court if possible.
3. Ms. Bloch to establish the type of paint to be used on the court surfacing.
4. Ms. Bloch to prepare a site furnishing plan and priority list.

The Commission will look into holding a special meeting to allow the project to move forward. Mr. Connelly will get Mr. Vitters the information for review.

Approval of Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission reviewed the minutes of March 11, 2008. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Robillard. Motion was approved 4-0.

International School of Boston Terrace Project Public Hearing

Ms. Mayer welcomed Mr. Romeo to the meeting. Mr. Connelly reviewed the three remaining outstanding questions with the Commission. Mr. Connelly stated that the irrigation system was in disrepair and that any work in the area would not affect the current system. Mr. Connelly shared the letter of support for the project from the Arlington Children's Center. Mr. Connelly stated that the only remaining question was who would purchase the soil for the garden. Mr. Connelly stated that the Town could not commit to the purchase. Mr. Romeo stated that his organization would purchase the soil if necessary.

Ms. Campbell motioned to approve the project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 4-0.

Mr. Connelly reminded Mr. Romeo that any volunteer working on the community build would need to sign a waiver. Mr. Connelly will send the appropriate forms to Mr. Romeo.

Field Request and League Review Athletic Club of Arlington

Mr. Connelly reviewed the history of field requests from Quimars and AC Arlington. Mr. Connelly stated the initial requests were for a single team but the current requests was for two teams. Quimars stated the teams were members of Mass Soccer and played in the Maple League. Mr. Robillard asked if the teams had insurance. Quimars stated that the insurance came from Mass Soccer. Ms. Campbell asked how many participants were currently in the program. Quimars stated that the two teams currently consisted of 24-28 players of which 70% were Arlington residents.

Mr. Robillard asked if the league was chartered. Quimars stated the league was informal but was under Mass Soccer.

Mr. Connelly stated that AS Arlington has inquired about April Vacation fields and a possible tournament during the summer months. The Commission discussed the tournament details with Quimars. Quimars indicated that there was no current plans to

expand.

Ms. Campbell stated that if the organization should expand it would have to come in front of the Commission again.

Ms. Rothenberg motion to recognize the Athletic Club of Arlington as an Arlington Organization as it relates to the Arlington Field Permitting Policy. The motion was seconded by Ms. Campbell and was approved 4-0.

Recreation and Rink Update

Spy Pond Kayak and Canoe Rentals

Mr. Connelly reviewed the new program with Still River Outfitters at Spy Pond Park. Mr. Connelly stated that Town Counsel was drafting a special waiver form and that all registrations would be handled through his office.

Ms. Campbell motioned to approve the program as presented, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 4-0.

Rink Closing

Mr. Connelly stated that the rink closed on Sunday, April 6th. Mr. Connelly explained that the day was pushed back from April 4th due to a last minute opportunity to sell \$5,000 worth of ice.

Red Sox Trophy

Mr. Connelly stated that both Boston Red Sox World Series trophies would be coming to the Arlington Sport Center on Friday, April 11th from 11 AM – 3:30 PM. Mr. Connelly explained that the Town was given no choice in the time.

Special Event Approval

Thompson School – The Commission discussed the request. Ms. Mayer stated that permission from the Fire Dept for the grilling would be necessary. Ms. Campbell stated that the group should also talk to the Board of Health. Mr. Robillard motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0.

Friends of Robbins Farm – The Commission discussed each request and the conditions of the permit. Ms. Mayer explained that the portable bathrooms should be removed the same day. Ms. Rothenberg suggested a police detail was necessary for both the Fourth of July event and the Red Sox simulcast. Mr. Robillard motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0.

Kristin Hall – Menotomy Rocks Park – The Commission discussed the request. Ms. Mayer asked that the Friends of Menotomy be informed of the event. Mr. Connelly stated that this was an annual request. Ms. Campbell motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

Jeffrey Alexander – Robbins Farm - Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly reviewed the request. Mr. Robillard motioned to approve the four dates requested, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

Kim O’Leary – Stratton School Grade 5 - Spy Pond Field – Mr. Connelly reviewed the request with the Commission. Ms. Campbell motioned to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 4-0.

Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park – Earth Day and Park Opening – The Commission discussed the request. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to get more information regarding the request.

Vision 20/20 – McClennen Park – Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly reviewed the request. The Commission discussed the request. Ms. Mayer stated the property has not yet been transferred to the Park Commission. Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer will discuss this with Mr. O’Brien when they meet next week. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the request, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0.

Field Permit Policy Revisions

This item was tabled for a future discussion

Current Capital Projects

Pheasant Ave: Mr. Connelly reviewed the results of the bid opening stating the Green Acres Landscaping and Construction was the low bidder. Mr. Connelly stated that both himself and Mr. Leonard have checked references and that everything seemed in order.

Base \$327,800.00

Alternate 1 \$13,000.00

Alternate 2 9,800.00

Alternate 3 9,850.00

Bond 7,000.00

Total \$367,450.00

Mr. Connelly and the Commission discussed the alternates. The Commission discussed alternate 3 being the need for the water fountain. Mr. Connelly discussed the desire of the users to cost out the rubber surface under the main swing set. Mr. Connelly stated that this process would have to wait until the project was awarded. Ms. Campbell motioned to recommend awarding the contract to Green Acres Landscaping including the base bid and all three alternates. Mr. Robillard seconded the motion and the motion was approved 4-0.

Buzzell Field: Mr. Connelly stated that the project was back on track and that Heimlich Landscaping would be beginning final grade soon. Mr. Connelly stated that the project could be completed by the end of May.

Thorndike Parking Lot: Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer reviewed their meeting with TAC stating the both TAC and Larson Associates were developing plans to present at a second public meeting to be held in May. Mr. Connelly stated that he was meeting with various abutters to solicit input.

Menotomy Rocks Park – Mr. Connelly stated that the final punch list meeting would take place within a week.

Committee Updates

Field User – Mr. Robillard stated that no additional meetings have taken place.

Green Dog – Ms Mayer stated the Committee is working to further investigate the issues that came out of the public hearings.

Friends of Parks - Ms. Rothenberg stated that the information should be appearing in the paper soon.

Correspondence Received

Susan Rudd – The Irving Condominiums – Mr. Connelly reviewed the letter concerning the Parmenter School

Arlington Human Right Commission Request – Mr. Connelly reviewed the request for permission to post a flyer on the bulletin boards in the parks. Ms. Campbell motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0

Brian Sullivan – Sasaki Associates – Mr. Connelly reviewed the memo from Mr. Sullivan.

Other Business

Menotomy Rocks – Natural Art – The Commission tabled the discussion.

Spy Pond Playground Clean-up – April 26 and May 3 – The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to work the details out with DPW. Mr. Connelly reviewed the request for donated toys at the park. The Commission discussed their concerns for donated toys left at the playground. Mr. Connelly will share the concerns with the Friends.

Atown Sport Wash – Mr. Connelly reviewed the request to use the Arlington Sport Center parking lot. Mr. Connelly stated that \$5 from each bag brought in went to youth hockey. Ms. Campbell motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 4-0.

Lyme Disease Signs – Mr. Carabello and Ms. Connolly reviewed the request. The Commission discussed the seriousness of Lyme Disease with Ms. Connolly. Ms. Rothenberg suggested that the Friends groups may be able to help pay for some of the signs. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the signs, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0.

Ms. Leary reviewed her concerns with the potential second sheet of ice at the Arlington Sport Center. The Commission explained that any feasibility study was for informational purposes only at this point and when the time is appropriate a series of public meetings would be held.

Ms. Leary and the Commission discussed the paved parking area at the top of Hills Hill. Ms. Mayer stated that the Commission never gave approval for the parking space to be paved. Ms. Leary stated that she was going to a meeting with the State to discuss and asked if the Commission would like the area to be paved or gravel. The Commission discussed the options. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to replace the paved parking area back to its natural state, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0.

Ms. Mayer discussed the traffic calming proposal for Lowell Street across from the Reservoir entrance. The Commission reviewed the proposal. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the proposal as presented by Ms. Mayer. The motion was seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0.

Mr. Robillard motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation